

Message Text

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SUBJECT: COMMISSION OF INQUIRY CHARGES OFFICIALS

REFS: (A) ADDIS 13585; (B) ADDIS 8821

1. EPMG'S COMMISSION OF INQUIRY, WHICH HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING THE WOLLO DROUGHT DISASTER, RELEASED A 34-PAGE REPORT LATE NOVEMBER 13 (STILL UNAVAILABLE). PRESS AND RADIO NOVEMBER 13-14 STATE THAT REPORT GIVES SUMMARY OF COMMISSION'S FINDINGS AND LISTS NAMES OF OFFICIALS TO BE TRIED FOR "FAILURE TO ACT AND NEGLIGENCE OF DUTY OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER" IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISASTER.

2. NAVY LT. COMMANDER LEMMA GETEMA, THE NEW CI CHAIRMAN (CF REF A), TOLD REPORTERS AT PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 13 INTER ALIA THAT COMMISSION HAS EXAMINED 138 THICK DOSSIERS, OVER 2800 DOCUMENTS AND HAS HEARD OVER 87 FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE WOLLO PROBLEM DURING ITS
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INVESTIGATION. ANOTHER REPORT ON THE CAUSES OF THE FAMINE IN

WOLLO IS TO BE RELEASED SHORTLY, HE SAID.

3. ACCORDING PRESS, THE CHAIRMAN SAID IN RESPONSE TO JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS THAT THE DEPOSED EMPEROR DID NOT APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMISSION BECAUSE HE ENJOYED PERSONAL IMMUNITY UNDER THE OLD CONSTITUTION (CF REF B).

4. FORMER ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO BE TRIED ON CHARGES FLOWING FROM THE WOLLO FAMINE DISASTER ARE LISTED AS FOLLOWS IN PRESS:

(A) DEJ. SOLOMON ABRAHAM, EX-ENDERASSIE OF WOLLO, FOR FAILURE TO REPORT TO PROPER AUTHORITIES AND OBTAIN IMMEDIATE RELIEF FOR FAMINE VICTIMS.

(B) MULATU DEBEBE, FORMER MINNCD, CHARGED WITH FAILURE TO REPORT THE FAMINE SITUATION THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA SO AS TO MOBILIZE ASSISTANCE.

5. OTHERS TO BE TRIED FOR FAILING IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER TO MEET THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE EX WOLLO GOVGEN DEJ. LEGESSE BEZU; ATO GETACHEW BEKELE, CURRENTLY RPT CURRENTLY MINPUBLIC WORKS, ETC., WHO WAS CHAIRMAN OF A TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE DURING THE WOLLO DROUGHT; DR. TEFAYE GEBRE-EGZY, FORMER MINISTER OF INFORMATION; ATO ABEBE ANDUALEM, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY (ENA); ATO NEGUSSIE HABTE WOLD, FORMER VICE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION; ATO TEGEGNE YETASHEWORK, FORMER GENERAL MANAGER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PRESS; ATO ABEBE RETTA, FORMER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE; TSEHAFE TAEZAZ AKLILU HABTE WOLD, FORMER PRIME MINISTER; AND ATO ABATEW GEBRE YESUS, FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.

6. FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE AKLILU HABTE WOLD CABINET ARE TO BE TRIED FOR "COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE WOLLO FAMINE": TSEHAFE TAEZAZ TEFERA WORK KIDANE WOLD, ATO YILMA DERESSA, ATO ABEBE RETTA, ATO GETAHUN TESSEMA, ATO AKALE WORK HABTE WOLD, ATO AMMANUEL ABRAHAM, BITWODED ASFEHA WOLDE MICHAEL, DEJ. CHIRMATCHEW TEKLE HAWARIAT, BITWODED ZEWDE GEBRE HIWOT, ATO TADESSE YACOB, ATO MAMMO TADESSE, ATO KETEMA YIFRU, MAJOR ASSEFA LEMMA, DR. SEYOUM HAREGOT, ATO BELETE GEBRE-TSADIK (CURRENTLY RPT CURRENTLY MINLAND REFORM), DR. MENASSIE HAILE, ATO SALEH HINIT, DEJ. KIFLE ERGETU, LT. GENERAL KEBEDE GEBRE, ATO SEIFU MAHTEME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SELASSIE, FIT. ABEBE GEBRE, LOJ ENDALKACHEW MAKONNEN, ATO KETEMA ABEBE, ATO MULATU DEBEBE, DR. TEFAYE GEBRE-EGZY, ATO BELAY ABBAI AND DEJ. KASSA WOLDE MARIAM.

7. THE COMMISSION CLEARED THE FOLLOWING OF CHARGES OF RESPONSIBILITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE WOLLO FAMINE: H.E. FIT. FEMISSIE TEFFERA; ALL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT REPRESENTING WOLLO; AND LT. ZEWDE MEKURIA, FORMERLY WITH THE ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY

IN LONDON.
WYMAN

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